

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of removing contaminants from textile, wherein the textile is a raw material or a semimanufactured product and the textile is treated with an effective amount of a fructan polycarboxylic acid which contains on average at least 0.05 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid contains on average between 0.5 and 3 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
3. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least 0.05 of the 3 hydroxymethyl(ene) groups of the fructan on which the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based have been converted into a carboxyl group and at least 0.1 of the 3 hydroxyl groups has been converted into a carboxyl-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy group.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the hydroxymethyl(ene) groups which have been converted into carboxyl groups and the hydroxyl groups which have been converted into carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy groups are present in the same molecule.
5. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based on inulin or a derivative thereof.
6. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the textile is ~~a selected from the group of natural kinds of textile, preferably selected~~ selected from the group consisting of cotton, linen, jute, silk and wool.

7. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method is part of a washing, boiling-down, bleaching, dyeing or rewashing treatment of textile.
8. Canceled
9. (Previously Added) The method of claim 3, wherein at least 0.2 to 2.0 of the 3 hydroxymethyl(ene) groups of the fructan on which the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based have been converted into a carboxyl group.
10. (Previously Added) The method of claim 3, where in at least 0.3 to 2.0 of the 3 hydroxyl groups has been converted into a carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy group.
11. (Amended) A method of removing contaminants from textiles, comprising contacting a textile with an effective amount of a fructan polycarboxylic acid ~~containing on average at least 0.05 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit~~, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid is carboxymethyl inulin.
12. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11, wherein said contacting is carried out during washing, boiling off, bleaching, dyeing or rewashing of said textile.
13. (Previously Added) The textile treated by the method of claim 11.
14. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein said fructan polycarboxylic acid is based on fructans having a chain length of at least 10.
15. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11, wherein said fructan polycarboxylic acid is based on fructans having a chain length of at least 10.
16. (Previously Added) The textile treated by the method of claim 1.